

Higher Educ

MINNESOTA RADIO TAPE OF OCTOBER 22, 1963

FOR BROADCAST WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 27, 1963

Ladies and gentlemen, and fellow Minnesotans --

This is Senator Hubert Humphrey, reporting to you from my office on Capitol Hill, in Washington, D. C.

As I record this message to you, the Senate has just completed action--with a three to one vote--to pass a bill to ensure that our college students in the coming ten years will have adequate classrooms, laboratories and college libraries. The bill differs slightly from a similar bill passed earlier by the House of Representatives and must now go to a conference with the House. Hopefully, the differences can be ironed out, and the bill can be sent to the President during the next several weeks.

We in Minnesota have always taken great pride in the education of our children. We have taxed ourselves heavily, we have given generously, and the result is that we have a population unusually literate, unusually well-educated--an economic asset which we are only now beginning to appreciate.

But in Minnesota--as in almost every other state in the Union--we are faced with a population explosion and an increasing trend for young people to go to college that ~~threatened~~^S to inundate our University, our state colleges and our private colleges with a wave of students. Unless construction of classrooms, laboratories and libraries is very greatly speeded up, many thousands of Minnesota boys and girls will find themselves in a few years unable to get into college because of a lack of facilities. At best, they would be subjected to overcrowding and poor conditions under which to study and to learn.

Dr. Logan Wilson, President of the American Council on Education, testified that between now and 1980--throughout the U. S.--if we are going to accommodate the students coming to college,

we would need to double the size of every existing institution of higher learning . . . and establish a thousand new institutions with an average enrollment of 2,500 students each!

Just think of it!

In round figures our U. S. population of boys and girls between 18 and 21 years of age increased 350,000 between 1950 and 1960.

But in the current decade--between 1960 and 1970--the population of college age is expected to increase by more than 5 million.

College enrollment increased by more than 50 percent in the last decade. It will almost double between 1960 and 1970. In other words, we are going to have need of facilities to take care of twice as many American college students in 1970 as we had in 1960.

We are talking, then, about a needed college expansion that will cost about \$2.3 billion each year. And current spending is running a billion dollars a year short of that figure.

It is the overwhelming feeling of the Congress--and I think of most Americans--that only the Federal Government can make up the deficit and guarantee to every young American a place to study during his or her college years.

Now what does the bill do?

First of all, it authorizes \$180 million each year in direct matching grants to colleges and universities--up to one-third of the cost of new or expanded facilities.

Secondly, it authorizes \$50 million in grants each year for public community colleges--again on a matching basis, with Federal, state and local governments sharing the cost. These are the two-year community colleges which have become of such importance in Minnesota.

Finally, the bill provides for a loan program of \$120 million each year, at low interest, and requiring that there be at least one-fourth of the cost of construction to be borne by non-Federal sources.

In the Senate version of the bill, according to the carefully worked-out formula, Minnesota would be eligible for approximately four million dollars in grants each year for four-year colleges and

universities, and almost 3.5 million dollars in grants each year for community colleges. Of course, such grants would depend on the ability to find matching state, local and private funds--but the Federal money would be a great stimulator of such money.

I am proud to have supported this legislation for many years. It has been requested in previous years by President Eisenhower and President Kennedy. Now the Congress is completing action on the bill.

Millions of college students will be enabled to go to college because of this bill. And the United States of America--all of us--will be the better for this decisive, affirmative step by the Congress in strengthening higher education throughout our country.

END



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